

NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHY Christine Jones

Dr. Christine Jones earned her A.B., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Astronomy at Harvard University, completing her Ph.D. in 1974. She then became a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Astrophysics (CfA), and was subsequently a Harvard Junior Fellow before joining the Smithsonian at the CfA where she is now a Senior Astrophysicist.

Throughout her career, Dr. Jones has worked on a variety of research topics, but most recently her research has focused on X-ray studies of the hot gas in galaxies and galaxy clusters using the Chandra X-ray observatory, which was successfully launched by the Columbia shuttle in July 1999. With Chandra and other X-ray observatories, Dr. Jones and her colleagues study clusters of galaxies to measure how they grow from early times to the present. They also use Chandra to observe how energetic outbursts from supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies produce shocks and reheat the surrounding gaseous atmospheres.

Her research has resulted in 280 refereed journal publications, which have been cited more than 21,000 times. Dr. Jones has been recognized 14 times for her dedication to her work and to her field, including the Bruno Rossi Prize for her work on X-ray emission of galaxies, several NASA Group Achievement Awards for her work on Chandra, an appointment as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an appointment as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Dr. Jones has served her community as a member of the Executive Council of the High Energy Astrophysics Division of the American Astronomical Society, as Deputy and later President of the IAU Division on Space and High Energy Astrophysics, and on several telescope allocation review panels, grant review panels, and advisory and planning committees. Dr. Jones has recently assumed the mantle of President of the American Astronomical Society. Dr. Jones has also sought to grow and enrich her field by mentoring high school, undergraduate, and graduate students on research projects. Indeed, her commitment is so great that for more than 20 years, she has been the principal investigator of an NSF supported Research Experiences for Undergraduates program that brings ten undergraduate students to the CfA for ten weeks each summer to conduct research.